

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3060

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SHUM FHPA
SUBJ: PARAGUAY AND THE IAHR

REF: A) STATE 166498, B) ASUNCION 2980

1. ON JULY 26 I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES FOR ANOTHER IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION ON PARAGUAY AND THE IAHR. AS I REPORTED IN REFTEL B, NOGUES HAD PLANNED TO OBTAIN GUIDANCE FROM THE PRESIDENT JULY 22.

2. NOGUES INFORMED ME THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO GET IN TOUCH WITH AGUILAR IMMEDIATELY TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO IAHR AND THE GOP. EVER SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING NOGUES HAS BEEN TRYING TO REACH AGUILAR ON THE TELEPHONE IN CARACAS. IF HE CAN REACH HIM, AND IF AGUILAR AGREES, NOGUES IS READY TO TRAVEL INCOGNITO TO CARACAS TO MEET WITH HIM.

3. THE GOP PLANS TO DELIVER ON JULY 30 ITS REPLY TO THE IAHR CONFIDENTIAL REPORT. NOGUES HOPES TO CONVINCE THE IAHR TO POSTPONE TEMPORARILY ITS REQUEST
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TO VISIT PARAGUAY UNTIL THE GOP REPLY HAS BEEN READ AND EVALUATED.

4. I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT AT LONG LAST UNDERSTANDS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE PRESIDENT, AS A FALL BACK POSITION, HAS GIVEN NOGUES AUTHORIZATION TO GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT

TO AN IAHC VISIT NOW. I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO IMPRESS
ON THE GOP THE NEED FOR QUICK ACTION BECAUSE THE FACT
THAT THE SOFT LOAN APPLICATIONS WERE WITHDRAWN ON
JULY 13 FROM IDB CONSIDERATION WILL BECOME KNOWN VERY
SOON AND WILL BRING ABOUT PRESSURES FOR FURTHER ACTION.

5. NOGUES WAS ANNOYED WITH AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR
WHEN I TOLD HIM IN PASSING OF THE LATTER'S REMARKS TO
ARA DIRECTOR ZIMMERMANN ON JULY 18 AND TO ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN ON THE 21ST, AS REPORTED REFTEL A.
HE SAID THAT LOPEZ ESCOBAR WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE
THESE STATEMENTS AND THAT THE STEPHANSKY VISIT WAS
HANDLED IN GOOD FAITH BY THE GOP AND NEVER WAS CON-
SIDERED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR AN IAHC VISIT. HE SAID
HE WAS EMBARRASSED THAT LOPEZ ESCOBAR MADE THESE REMARKS
WHICH ONLY MAKE THE GOP LOOK DEVIOUS AND UNTRUSTWORTHY.
HE SAID THAT, MOROVER, LOPEZ ESCOBAR HAD NO RIGHT TO
SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE IAHC MOVES. NOGUES SAID HE
UNDERSTOOD FULLY THAT THE IAHC COULD NOT WITHDRAW
ITS REQUEST AND HE DID NOT PLAN TO ASK THEM TO DO
SO. ALL HE HOPED TO GET WAS A LITTLE MORE TIME.
WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH
AGUILAR, NOGUES SAID THE RESULTS WOULD BE COMMUNI-
CATED DIRECTLY BY THE IAHC TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. I MADE, OF COURSE, NO REFERENCE TO FYI SECTION
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(PARAGRAPH 2) OF REFTEL A AND IAHC AND MOYER ARE
TOTALLY PROTECTED. I WILL REPORT AFTER NOGUES HAS
CONTACTED AGUILAR.
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